

Do not let yourselves get drawn in by internet popup screens.

These days I favor the free Avira anti-virus system. If you have Avira, you do not need other "protections" which usually are viruses themselves. The first thing I do when cleaning up a machine is get rid of Ad-Aware, SpyWareBlaster, SpyBot, Spyware Terminator and their ilk.

Be extra careful with the popups that appear when visiting naughty sites. Some of them will bring up frightening screens that say you are infected and will not let you leave that screen until you buy something. Often the Alt-F4 combination will kill a unwanted screen, but sometime you may need to use the TaskMgr to kill the browser process. Say you do not go to naughty sites? It's easy to accidentally stumble into them while following what look like innocent links.